

Amendments to the Specification

Please make the following changes to the paragraphs taken from the specification as follows:

Please delete the following paragraph, previously added by amendment:

~~RELATED APPLICATIONS~~

~~This application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §120 as a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/608,526, filed June 30, 2000, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.~~

Beginning on page 7, line 21:

Turning to Fig. 1 there is shown a high-level block diagram of an integrated system 10 for delivering real-time content streams to authorized subscribers and enabling real-time interactions between the host and subscriber and between businesses and customers over various networks. In particular, system 10 has a real-time information channel 11 which is configured to receive raw data streams 14 from one or more content providers 12, process the data streams in real time and then forward relevant offers and other data via a network 16, 16' to subscribing clients 18, 18'.

Beginning on page 8, line 15:

The system 10 can also include an interactive services channel 20 which facilitates the bi-directional flow of communications 24, 24' between host business services 22 and ~~suscribers~~subscribing clients 18, 18'. The interactive services channel 20 is comprised of a service manager 34 and a service router 36. The

service manager 34 is responsible for maintaining communication between various business services 22, such as trading, sales, and auctions and separate service managers may be used for various services. The service router 36 is configured to cache messages and track communications between the subscribing clients and businesses and the host system. The service router 36 also interacts with the service manager 34 which contains functionality to establish point-to-point connections between the client and individual business services. Network communications between the system 10 and clients 18 is preferably made using an HTTP tunneling transport system 38 which is configured to overcome limitations caused by the transient nature of HTTP and HTTPS protocols and provide a virtual persistent connection between the host system 10 and subscriber client 18. The tunneling transport system 38 is also discussed in more detail below.